

DRAFT
17 March 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Michael Hutchinson
E/EWT - Room 3815
Department of State

SUBJECT: Tantalum and Tantalum-containing Products to European
Satellites from West Europe

REFERENCE: Vienna A-604, 10 February 1967, Confidential

1. In response to your telephone request of 6 March 1967, involving the problem described in referenced airgram, we are able to supply the following comments on possible shipments of tantalum and tantalum-containing products to European Satellites from West Europe:

a. Nearly all countries of the Bloc have imported tantalum from the Free World. In 1964, in addition to small amounts authorized by COCOM (such as West German shipments of tantalum band to Bulgaria and tantalum wire to Rumania), Switzerland exported tantalum oxide, sheet, or wire to Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Hungary.

b. Early in 1965 Union Carbide Europe, S.A. of Geneva, Switzerland, a subsidiary of Union Carbide Corporation of New York, was negotiating with Poland for shipment of tantalum sheet having a thickness of 0.010 inch.

c. In December 1965 (according to DOD Intelligence Information Report 1 783 0090 65, C.) Poland was trying to get,

OSD and DOS review(s) completed.

apparently from West Germany, 20-40 tons of 30 percent tantalite for use in the textile industry.

d. As of January 1966 (according to DOD Intelligence Information Report 1 783 0004 66, C.), a representative of Czechoslovakia in Vienna had recently purchased an unknown quantity of tantalum sheet made in West Germany. This was reported to have been smuggled into Czechoslovakia in vehicles bearing diplomatic license plates.

e. From time to time during 1965 [REDACTED] (AAP 521) attempted to obtain tantalum capacitors and tantalum condensers from various West German manufacturers, probably for delivery to East Germany. Probably some deliveries were made.

2. Except where sources with other classifications are noted, *all* is SECRET. Please let us know what use you make of it.

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[REDACTED]
Trade and Finance Branch

Distribution:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee
1 - Ch/ERA
1 - Ch/D/T
1 - R/MM
1 - R/EE
1 - T/TF

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